

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SS-15  
NSC-05 SSC-01 /052 W  
-----023347 281542Z /50

P R 281326Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY  
SECSTATE WASHDC 6121  
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A TEHRAN 11451

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: PINR UN  
SUBJ: DIRGEN OF UN OFFICE GENEVA

1. NAMED AMB TO IRAN ON JUNE 28, 1972,  
COTTAFABI IS A PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT WHO BEGAN HIS CAREER  
IN 1948 AND SERVED IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES IN VIENNA, TEL  
AVIV, LONDON AND OSLO. IN 1963 HE WAS POSTED TO ROME  
WHERE HE BECAME DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TO THE PREMIER FOR  
SIX YEARS, AND LATER CHEF DE CABINET AT THE FOREIGN  
MINISTRY FOR THREE YEAR. BORN IN TURIN, MARCH 7,  
1917, COTTAFABI HOLDS AN LL.D. FROM THE UNIV OF  
ROME.

2. COTTAFABI WAS A PRISONER OF WAR IN TEXAS DURING  
WORLD WAR II. HE APPARENTLY DID NOT FIND THE  
EXPERIENCE DISPLEASING AND OFTEN PROUDLY REFERS TO  
HIMSELF AS A "TEXAN". HIS WAR TIME EXPERIENCE  
BEFORE CAPTURE (PLACE UNKNOWN) WAS WITH THE ELITE  
ITALIAN SKI CORPS.

3. COTTAFABI IS A REAL "OPERATOR" WHO CAN TURN ON  
CONSIDERABLE CHARM. HE HAS MAINTAINED CLOSE  
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RELATIONS WITH SEVERAL EMB OFFICERS AND MAKES  
DETERMINED EFFORTS TO "PICK THEIR BRAINS". AN  
ENERGETIC LADIES' MAN, HE ENJOYS AN ACTIVE SOCIAL  
LIFE WHERE HE CAN MEET PRETTY WOMEN.

4. DURING HIS ALMOST 5 YEARS OF SERVICE IN TEHRAN,  
COTTAFABI ASSIDUOUSLY AND EFFECTIVELY CULTIVATED A WIDE

CIRCLE OF ACQUAINTANCES IN LOCAL GOVT AND SOCIAL CIRCLES. HE APPARENTLY ENJOYED A REASONABLY GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SHAH AND WAS ABLE TO SEE HIM WITH SOMEWHAT MORE FREQUENCY THAN SOME OF HIS OTHER WEST EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES. COTTAFVI DEVELOPED A GOOD GRASP OF IRANIAN POWER RELATIONSHIPS ALTHOUGH HIS ASSESSMENT OF INTERNAL POLITICAL DYNAMICS DID NOT SEEM TO BE ESPECIALLY PROFOUND. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS A FAIRLY STERN AND DEMANDING TASKMASTER WITH HIS STAFF.

5. COTTAFVI SPEAKS ENGLISH AND FRENCH AND IS AN AVID SKIER. HIS WIFE, GABRIELLE, WAS BORN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND IS A MEMBER OF THE PRINCELY ROHAN FAMILY OF FRANCE. BEFORE HER MARRIAGE MRS COTTAFVI'S FAMILY EMIGRATED FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO AUSTRIA WHERE SHE BECAME A TRAINED ACCOUNTANT. SHE SPEAKS GERMAN, FRENCH, ENGLISH AND ITALIAN.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PINR, PDIP, IR, UN  
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**Review Markings:**  
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